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Agenda item 94 (e)
**Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa**

**Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Prendergast (Jamaica), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.16**

# Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

*Reiterating* its decision, in conformity with paragraph 17 of its resolution 52/198, to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998–1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies[2] envisaged for that biennium, taking into account the request of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, held in Rome in October 1997,

*Noting with satisfaction* that a great number of States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention, and confirming its globality and the worldwide support it enjoys,

*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Senegal for the generous offer to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

[1] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[2] Subsidiary bodies as defined in accordance with Article 24 and Article 22, paragraph (c) of the Convention; see ibid.

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*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Secretary-General and to all bilateral and multilateral contributors, including intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, for the contribution and the support they provided to the interim secretariat of the Convention,

*Noting with appreciation* the work undertaken by the interim secretariat in contributing to the ratification and implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional and regional levels, including in promoting public awareness,

*Looking forward* to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing desertification and drought issues in the light of the provisions of the Convention, as well as of the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, held in Rome in October 1997,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General[3] on the implementation of Assembly resolution 52/198, in accordance with paragraph 21 thereof, and noting in this context the statement made on 21 October 1998 to the Second Committee of the General Assembly by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the progress made by all actors in implementing the provisions of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998, in accordance with paragraph 19 of its resolution 52/198;

2. *Calls upon* all States and other actors to contribute to the successful outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties at Dakar;

3. *Also calls upon* all countries that are not yet parties to ratify or accede to the Convention, as soon as possible;

4. *Takes note* that the United Nations, the Convention secretariat and the Government of Germany have signed the headquarters agreement on 18 August 1998, which will be before the Conference of the Parties at its second session for adoption, subject to ratification by the German Parliament;

5. *Invites* the host Government and the Convention secretariat to contribute fully to the relocation of the secretariat and its effective functioning at Bonn, and also invites the secretariat to continue its efforts with a view to finalizing the relocation as soon as possible;

6. *Notes with concern* that the Global Mechanism did not begin operating on 1 January 1998, as indicated by the Conference of the Parties;[4]

7. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to establish the framework for the separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the Fund, and looks forward to a prompt starting of its activities, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decision taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

8. *Urges* all Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full in the first month of each year, starting on 1 January 1999, the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

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[3] A/53/516.

[4] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 24/COP.1.

9. *Takes note with appreciation* of the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some country Parties, and reiterates its appeal to Governments, all interested organizations and the private sector to make promptly further voluntary contributions to support of the activities and functioning of the Global Mechanism;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund to be established by 1 January 1999, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;[5]

11. *Also calls upon* developing country parties to the Convention to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of national action programmes, and calls for the implementation of those adopted through, *inter alia*, the conclusion of partnership agreements, including consideration of non-governmental organizations contributions;

12. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular developed countries and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions and all other interested actors, to support the efforts of affected developing countries in the processes of elaboration and implementation of action programmes to combat desertification, including, as appropriate, interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation, by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance;

13. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its second session, at Dakar, to facilitate and launch the process of the elaboration and negotiation of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the Eastern and Central European region, with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as on measures taken for the implementation of decisions adopted by the Conference at that session;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".

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[5] Ibid., decision 2/COP/1.